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OUR CORRESPONDENTS.

From time to time are received, and read at the semi-monthly Meetings of the Society, Letters of great interest to the members present, from associates not residing in our city. It is now some personal detail, and again a numismatic fact, which engages the attention, making up to some extent for the writer's absence, and keeping alive the remembrance of his worth. To publish these communications *in extenso* would not be proper or justifiable, since they are characterized by a tone more or less familiar, indicating that their authors had no such possibility in view as that of appearing in print. We trust, however, that we shall be pardoned, if, on this occasion, we present to our readers a few extracts from recent letters of two or three of our elder numismatists, men whose names have been long and favorably known to our little public, and are not unhonored in the wider world. These will, we think, be found to convey information not otherwise to be obtained, to comprise reminiscences which usually circulate only in conversation or gossip, and to deal with pleasant trifles which have their importance to those of kindred tastes. Should they meet with acceptance and no reproof, we purpose to repeat occasionally this process of selection. We hope thereby to fulfil our constant law, which is to please while we instruct, and to promote at the same time a feeling of brotherly intimacy among all those whom one correspondent facetiously, but with narrow numismatic vision, denominates the "*Centumviri*".

They will be gratified, for instance, to learn the reason of the discrepancy—by which the proof-reader of our last number was sorely troubled—between the name of one gentleman as it appears on the title-page of the admirable "*Manual*", and as it is so often thankfully cited in our pages. He explains it thus:

"My full name is William Ewing Dubois. Most of my family (which is of New York origin, although I was born in Pennsylvania, and my father, and his father, in New Jersey) write the surname (*more majorum*) with a big B, which I have discarded as troublesome and well nigh obsolete".

Mr. M. Moore, of Trenton Falls, Oneida Co., N. Y., is, we believe, the Nestor of American Numismatists. Wherever his famous hostelry, unique as it is in itself and its surroundings, is mentioned—and that is everywhere—its worthy proprietor has his share of praise for his urbanity, and his accomplishments. His collection, as we can report from personal knowledge, contains some of the finest ancient and foreign coins to be found in America, and a letter of January 29, relates how it arose, and vanished, and reappeared:

"Forty-six years ago I became acquainted with Mr. John Allan; and from that genial gentleman I first imbibed the love of those mementos of old time, and commenced collecting them, which I did almost entirely from Mr. Cureton, Aldersgate Street, London. In the year 1832 I bought the estate where I am now located, disposing of my coins and medals to James Thomson, Esq., then living near Rhinebeck, and with the proceeds I nearly paid for Trenton Falls. My son Robert was in College from 1858 to June 1861. At the breaking out of the war, he volunteered in the army, and was disabled in Pope's campaign. While in College he commenced collecting Cents and Medals, mostly American. He never knew I formerly had a *penchant* of the kind, though in a different way. Then I thought that, as he was working for me, I would work for him, and I commenced again, in order to try to surprise him when he returned home. This is my experience, and many hours of pleasant occupation it has afforded me. I have other hobbies, Books, Paintings, Music, and Astronomy. I now have three telescopes, the most powerful 480 diameters".

The following anecdote and comment are from a letter of subsequent date:

"I was interested in the concluding paragraph of the NUMISMATIC JOURNAL for February, viz., that the artists of the Academy of Design were engaged in making drawings for the gold and silver coins. During the administration of John Quincy Adams, a few lovers of art were at Michael Paff's, where the Astor House now stands, and were discussing the uninteresting appearance of our coins, and whether it were possible to improve them. After deliberation, it was resolved to raise a sufficient amount of money, and to employ a competent artist to make drawings of various designs, the subjects to be named by those who furnished the means. The drawings were forwarded to President Adams, and disapproved by him, because they were of too monarchical a character. On the obverse were the heads of the Presidents; and, on the reverse, important events in the history of each administration, the series being intended to commence with Washington and continue to the end. What an interest-

ing one it would have been, when handed down for a thousand years! And what have we? A nondescript head, farcically labelled 'Liberty', and a thing supposed to be an eagle. The old Romans (those grand old fellows in such respects) adopted the eagle as a mark of the consecration of a deceased emperor. We hope our ancestors did not foreshadow by it the death of the Republic".

Our concluding extract exhibits the paths which Mr. Moore pursues in his researches and acquisitions:

"I recently received from London an Octodrachm of Ptolemy III., formerly classed as Ptolemy VIII. It seems that Mr. R. S. Poole, of the British Museum, has been studying the coins of the Ptolemies, and has written several articles in the *Numismatic Chronicle*. He has gone into the matter thoroughly, and his opinion is accepted by those best acquainted with the series. By the dates which he finds on some coins, and by a comparison of other coins, he has satisfied those interested that his views are correct. Mr. Poole has added greatly to the Collection in the Museum, though previously very large. The Octodrachm I have of Ptolemy III. is splendid. In the Thomas sale it brought £22.10.0. In Humphreys it is marked R 8. It weighs 429 $\frac{1}{2}$ grains. Now all this is very interesting to me, but probably a matter which many of your members may be cognizant of and do not care about".

Again, all who took part in the great Mickley sale will read with satisfaction these lines by the respected collector of the cabinet then dispersed, extracted from a letter dated Philadelphia, Dec. 26:

"Although I have parted with my collection of Coins and Medals, I still take an interest in Numismatics; but whether I shall ever make another, except of copper medals, is very doubtful. I feel as if it was very dangerous to have any in gold or silver about the house; but copper the thieves don't seem to care for. I have still my sources of amusement: one is music; another, my library, in which are my numismatic books, which I don't intend to part with, and my historical ones, particularly those relating to our early American history. To this latter subject I have paid more attention, within several years past, than to anything else, having collected quite a number of rare books in different languages; and I still continue to collect, so that you see I am not without a hobby. I felt very loath to part with my collection, the accumulating of which had afforded me pleasure during over fifty years—for I recollect having a small cabinet in the year 1817—but, under the circumstances, I felt as if my life was in danger through having anything of value in gold and silver, being entirely alone, except a housekeeper. I had intended to be present at the sale of my former collection, but was taken sick on the very day when I was to set out for New York, and was confined to my bed for the first time in my life, and for ten days".

The want of space forbids us to do more than take one sentence from a letter of Mr. Stickney of Salem, who, on the other hand, frequently favors our pages with valuable contributions. The approbation expressed in this sentence in regard to our new Seal, and Diploma of Corresponding Membership, is of value to us, as coming from a gentleman of his taste and judgment. "The device and motto of the Seal"—he remarks—"are exceedingly appropriate, and the whole execution of the Certificate very fine". Such too is the opinion of Col. Cohen, of Baltimore, who expresses his "gratification at the very splendid execution of the copper-engraving".

GENERAL CARNOT, AND THE SIEGE-PIECES OF ANTWERP.

In addition to the interest and life which the study of Numismatics contributes to historical events, that portion of the science which relates to the Medals struck in honor of distinguished persons has a similar bearing on Biography. Thus when our daily papers informed us of the decease, at Paris, on the 7th of May last, of De Cormenin, once widely known as "Timon" the pamphleteer, we took from our cabinet his fine medal, by Rogat, with its singular reverse representing the Pantheon, in the background of a "Piazza" like that of St. Peter's, but formed of a circle of illustrious men whom he commemorated in his "Studies on Parliamentary Orators", and viewed it, while reading his life, as if through a medium of luminous reality communicated by each to the other. The contemplation of an autograph letter exercises the same influence over the mind, yet not, we think, to the same degree. In the case of the medal, the actual handiwork of the subject, indeed, is absent; but we have, as a more than sufficient compensation, the subtle effect of an object of art, and of sympathy with the admiration which gave it existence.

Of the illustrious man whose name stands at the head of our article, there is no medal of which we have any knowledge, but the "Monnaie Obsidionale" of "Anvers" (Antwerp) is often found in our auction sales. It is generally sold at a low price, not at all in accordance with its historic and biographic interest, and only to be explained through ignorance of its nature. On this we shall endeavor, with such works of reference as we have at our disposition, to throw some light. Carnot is the only leading spirit of the French Revolution, who, after occupying a seat in the National Convention; voting for the death of Louis XVI.; serving in the "*Comité du Salut Public*", with Robespierre, Couthon, and St. Just; reigning over France as one of the Five Directors; and filling the ministry of war under the Consulate, has left a name which all concur in honoring. This distinction he owes to his stern integrity not less than to his vast strategic genius. With whatever political extremists he might be associated in administration, his own activity was confined to military affairs. Here he was an organizer of victory, the "*Louvois de la Terreur*", according to Lamartine, and generalissimo of all the armies of the republic. He was a man to whom our Grant bears a marked, though incom-

plete, resemblance, in disdaining puerile tactics and scientific evolutions, by which former generals had wasted their time and skill, and in marching an armed nation to the frontier, where, neglecting little checks for grand results, it struck at the enemy's heart.* He was too sincere a republican to vote for Napoleon's elevation to the imperial throne, and retired from public life on that event. In vain the emperor sought to win him with the ample promise: "*tout ce que vous voudrez, quand vous voudrez; et comme vous voudrez*".† The very words betray how entirely he mistook the man; and when he left Paris after the battle of Waterloo to embark, by that faithful friend's advice, for America, Napoleon confessed his error in a farewell which is full of pathos: "*Carnot, je vous ai connu trop tard*".‡ This great man died as recently as 1823, exiled from his country as one who had taken part in the king's death, but so honored in Prussian Magdeburg, the place of his decease, that the soldiers had orders to salute him as often as he appeared in the street.

When, after the grand crash of the battle of Leipsic in October, 1813, the allies, in the commencement of the following year, advanced from every side, like ravenous wolves, against prostrate France, Carnot came forward to offer to the emperor, "in his adversity, what remained of strength at sixty-four years of age, for the defence of the country".§ "Since Carnot proffers me his services"—was Napoleon's reply—"I know that he will be faithful to the post which I assign him: I appoint him governor of Antwerp." Arriving at the place, February 2, the very day before the bombardment began, the general conducted the defence with the greatest prudence and with all possible indulgence to the city and its inhabitants. With a view to alleviate the situation of the lower classes, and at the same time spare the treasury, he directed a provisional Siege-money to be struck, exclusively by I. P. Wolschot, cannon-founder of the navy, pursuant to an order of the governor issued March 10, 1814, for the coining of pieces of 5 Centimes, and a second order of March 16, for that of pieces of 10 Centimes. Their weight was so considerable that their nominal value corresponded almost exactly to their metallic worth, and the receiver was thus secured against any considerable loss. Of this coinage we have therefore; 1. Obv. *Leg.*, above, ANVERS, below, 1814; in the middle, in a laurel-wreath of two branches united below by a ribbon, N, and beneath w (Wolschot). Rev. *Leg.* Monnaie Obsidionale; in the middle, 10 CENT. 2. The same of half size, with 5 for 10, and v for w.

Carnot held out till after the first accession of Louis XVIII., and caused the garrison to take the oath of allegiance to that king, April 18, 1814. From this time till the surrender of the city to the English General Graham, May 5, the type of these obsidional pieces was changed as follows; 3. Obv. as before, substituting for the N and w, a monogram formed of two Ls, of which one is reversed; on the ribbon which binds the laurel-wreath, in very small letters, JEAN LOUIS GAGNEPAIN, probably the name of the die-sinker. 4. Same as 3, with 5 for 10 on Rev. These coins—remarks our authority—are honorably distinguished above all other Siege-Pieces and Distress-Pieces by their beautiful sharp impression and their metallic worth.¶

Among the numerous valuable historic specimens lately sent by Major C. P. Nichols of Springfield, for the inspection of the Society, were two of these Obsidional Pieces of Antwerp, one of 5 Centimes, the other of 10, which vary in their type from the foregoing, the Ls being twined into a different monogram, resembling two Xs, one above the other.

We trust that we have increased our readers' interest in these coins, by thus showing them to be memorials of a siege in which the conduct of the general commanding the place is declared to have been a model of firmness, constancy and wisdom, as it elicited the warm affection and gratitude of the inhabitants. They may also serve to recall to memory a man who was in some respects the greatest of his time. Such at least was the opinion of Niebuhr, who adds his testimony to his hero's goodness of heart and concludes: "Had I nothing left in the wide world but a crust of bread, I should be proud of sharing it with Carnot".||

The party who favor Genl. Grant's election to the Presidency have already commenced the medallic campaign by employing Mr. Key to cut a medal of their candidate. It is of size 18, bears, Obv. an excellent bust of Grant, to the observer's left; *leg.* GEN. U. S. GRANT. The General wears and epaulette with four stars, and there are four stars beneath the bust. The Rev. has, above a group of four flags issuing from a shield surmounted by an eagle, the Inscription: REPUBLICAN CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES. The elegance and superior execution of this piece augur well for a higher character of art than heretofore in the campaign medalets, of which we may expect to see ere long a copious crop. It is for sale by Wm. H. Warner, 728 Chestnut St.—Collectors may be interested in learning that the Dies of Mr. Key's fine McClellan Medal, size 33, Rev. Battles from the Siege of Yorktown to Antietam, &c., no longer exist. There were but two impressions taken in silver, one of which is in Mr. Key's collection, the other was presented to Folyard Degan, Marshal of the Keystone Club. The Die broke in making the last silver one; and there are but three impressions in copper. The numerous other specimens extant are in white metal.

* Lamartine. *Histoire des Girondins, Livre XLIX.*

† Dictionnaire de la Conversation, Art. Carnot.

‡ Lord Brougham, "Historical Sketches". Art. Carnot.

§ Alison. Hist. of Europe, &c., chap. LXXV.

¶ The details of this account are from Reinhard *Kupfer-Kabinet*, Vol. III., pp. 113-115. || Lord Brougham, *ub. sup.*

A PSEUDO-MEDAL.

The following article, taken from the *N. Y. Times* of May 26, 1868, is really painful to read, not merely as exemplifying the low state of the medallic art in this country, but as indicating the contemptuous opinion which tradesmen must entertain of American knowledge and taste. It would seem so at least, when they can, like Messrs. Starr & Marcus, thus palm off on Congress and the President, as a "Medal", a work which is evidently but a piece of plate, like an "épergne" or "plateau", to decorate the centre of a dining-table. The coolness with which we are informed by the describer that it "was made with tools, and not struck from a die" is positively amazing. If Congress voted a *Medal* to Mr. Peabody, then this nondescript affair manufactured by Starr & Marcus does not carry out the provisions of the Act, for it is no Medal; and if, as is most probable, that firm was employed explicitly to furnish a medal, then this piece of goldsmith's work must be rejected by the authorities, and Starr & Marcus should be informed that we have at least a Paquet in this country, not to speak of many other medalists perfectly competent to cut dies and strike a Medal, such as Congress ordered. The article from the *Times* is altogether so opposed in spirit to our paper on Medal Dies in the December number of this JOURNAL that the necessity of inculcating correct opinions on the subject is by such contrariety made doubly apparent; and we have therefore taken the liberty to send that number, with the present, to some of our public men who may be supposed to feel an interest in our national reputation as involved in questions of art.

THE PEABODY MEDAL.—Last week, the well-known house, Messrs. Starr & Marcus, silversmiths and jewellers, of this city, completed the gold medal which, at the last session of the Thirty-ninth Congress, the President of the United States was authorized to present to George Peabody, Esq., in consideration of his munificent gift of \$1,000,000 to the South for educational purposes, to be applied without regard to color.

It has been since forwarded to the State Department, and is pronounced to be the handsomest and most unique affair ever made in this country, and, as a work of art, far surpasses any medal ever presented by our Government heretofore. It is three inches in diameter and a half inch thick; on the front is the profile of Mr. Peabody in *alto rilievo*, and on the reverse the following inscription: "The people of the United States to George Peabody, in acknowledgment of his beneficent promotion of universal education." It is mounted on a base, and to the right of the medal are two palmetto trees in gold, six inches high, around which is twined the ivy, the emblem of friendship. To the left of the medal is the figure of Benevolence, with one hand resting upon the medal, holding in it a spray of laurel, and with the other pointing to Mr. Peabody. Under the palmetto trees are two children, one representing a white child and the other a black, the white child pointing to Benevolence and the black one to himself, as if saying, "Am I, too, to be educated?" The base is six inches long, three-fourths of an inch thick, and one and one-quarter inches high, and the whole work is of solid gold. In the rear of the medal, resting upon the base, is a perfect globe, which revolves, and around this are books and various instruments, representing the progress of civilization and education. On the front of the base is our national shield, executed in enamel. The whole is inclosed in a handsome cabinet of ebony and birdseye maple, lined with purple velvet, the top of which revolves when the medal is placed upon it, thus exhibiting it without placing the hand upon it to change its position. The entire work was made with tools, and not struck from a die. It is a most beautiful piece of workmanship, and is greatly admired by all who have seen it. To-day it will be exhibited to the members of the Cabinet at Washington, after which it will be placed on exhibition by Mr. R. S. Chilton, in the Capitol, where it will remain for some time in his charge.

Messrs. Starr & Marcus, some months ago, executed a magnificent service of solid silver to the order of Mr. Peabody, which that gentleman presented to Mr. Cyrus Field as a testimonial of an act of commercial integrity and honor.

A CRUEL HOAX.

The *Evening Post* of Saturday, May 16, contained the following:

DISCOVERY OF TREASURE AT HOBOKEN.—SIX THOUSAND DOLLARS IN COIN FOUND.—Patrick Murphy, a laborer, engaged in altering an old building at the southwest corner of Washington and Second streets, Hoboken, found six thousand dollars in gold and silver pieces, which had been secreted in a vault six feet by four, underneath the rear part of the structure.

The building was put up in 1826, and occupied as a bank. It is said that the property was once owned by John Jacob Astor. Subsequently, it formed part of the estate of the Kipp family. At present it is owned by Theophilus Butts. Mr. George Klattenhoff has leased the property, and he was fitting the building up for offices when the coin was found.

As soon as this item was pointed out to us by an observant friend, our imagination began to run riot in regard to this "find", this "treasure trove", this "*thesaurus inventus*"; and as no Crown-claim can operate in Nova Cæsarea since a little incident which took place in '76, we thought it well to write to "Theophilus Butts, Esq." (Greece, Anglo-Saxondom, and Feudalism all in one man's address!), explaining to this new proprietor that it would be to his advantage to place himself at once in communication with our Society. We instructed him as to the fact that many of these pieces of silver and gold might have a value altogether distinct from and superior to their intrinsic worth, and that from us honest folk he could be best informed thereanent. He of composite address vouchsafed not to reply. We thought this unkind in Theophilus, but a subsequent paragraph in another paper explained all, and left the editorial mind in its wonted theophilanthropic state. It was this:

A GOOD STORY SPOILED.—A sensational story has been in circulation for several days concerning a sum of money in gold and silver said to have been found in an old family mansion, now undergoing repairs, on the corner of Washington and Second streets, Hoboken, by a laborer named Murphy, some of the newspaper accounts placing the sum as high as \$7,000. On inquiring of a policeman at the house, we were informed that the sum total consisted of a fifty-cent silver coin, and one cent dated 1826.

TRANSACTIONS OF SOCIETIES.

AMERICAN NUMISMATIC AND ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

NOTICE.—*The American Numismatic and Archæological Society will be at all times pleased to communicate with any individuals or Societies, on Numismatic or Archæological topics, to answer questions and give all information desired. Letters of inquiry addressed to "ROBERT HEWITT, JR., 93 Wall St., Cor. Sec'y," will receive prompt attention.*

Regular Meeting, May 14th, 1868.—Present: the President; Messrs. Betts, Groh, Norton, Hanna, Nexsen, Parish, Levick, Hewitt, Perine and Oliver.

The minutes of the previous meeting, after slight amendment, were approved.

The Lincoln Medal Committee reported that seventy impressions of the medal were ready and would be delivered at the next meeting. After some discussion the report was accepted.

A donation of a large number of consular seals, autographs and counterfeit currency was received from Mr. C. L. Sauer, a curious old pistol from Col. A. B. Sage, and a rare copper coin from Mr. Norton. The President read a communication from Maj. C. P. Nichols, Springfield, Mass., which was accompanied by a curious Marriage Medal in gold, for exhibition before the Society. The President also read a letter from Mr. Alfred Sandham, of Montreal.

The following named gentlemen were proposed for membership by Pres. Anthon: Messrs. Francis S. Hoffman, T. Bailey Myers, and Dr. Thomas Addis Emmet.

Mr. Nexsen presented the following resolution, which was on motion adopted:

Resolved, That the Cor. Sec. be directed to present a copy of the 1st and 2d vols. of the NUMISMATIC JOURNAL to each of the following named Societies and Libraries, soliciting subscription from each for the coming year:

N. Y. Society Library,
Astor Library,
Mercantile Library, N. Y. City,

N. Y. Historical Society,
Long Island Historical Society,
Mercantile Library, Brooklyn.

The discussion of the 1793 cent ensued. President Anthon exhibited several fine specimens from the collection of Mr. C. I. Bushnell. Mr. Betts exhibited a photograph of the Mint building in which they were struck. Mr. Hewitt stated that the finest specimen he ever saw is in the possession of Mr. Appleton, Boston, and was brought from Germany. Mr. Levick read extracts from a tabular statement prepared by him, of the varieties, sales, average prices, &c. Further discussion was deferred to the next meeting, and the Society adjourned.

JAS. OLIVER, *Recording Secretary.*

Regular Meeting, May 28th, 1868.—Present: Messrs. Hewitt, Levick, Parish, Groh, Betts, Earle, Oliver. On motion, Mr. Hewitt was elected Chairman, *pro tem.*, in the absence of the regular officers. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

The Lincoln Medal Committee reported progress and delivered thirty-six of the medals. Report received with approval.

The Cor. Sec'y read a communication from the Minnesota Historical Society relating to the NUMISMATIC JOURNAL.

Dr. Thomas Addis Emmet, Mr. Francis S. Hoffman and Mr. T. Bailey Myers, were elected Resident Members of the Society.

On nomination by Mr. Levick, Mr. J. A. Bolen, of Springfield, Mass., was elected a Corresponding Member.

Mr. Levick moved, that in the absence of the President (who was attending the commemorative discourse on his uncle, the late Prof. Anthon, of Columbia College, by Prof. Drisler, at the Historical Society's building) the discussion on the cent of 1793 be postponed to another meeting, which was adopted.

Moved by Mr. Levick, that the numismatists throughout the country be invited to communicate information concerning the '93 cent to the Society, which was adopted; and a motion by Mr. Earle that, from the interest and industry manifested by Mr. Levick in the subject the correspondence be conducted by him, was also adopted.

On motion, adjourned.

JAS. OLIVER, *Recording Secretary.*

BOSTON NUMISMATIC SOCIETY.

The Monthly Meeting was held on Thursday, May 7th, at the usual hour. The report of the last meeting was read and accepted, and various matters of private business and interest were transacted. The President exhibited some coins and curiosities belonging to Mr. Herter, who obtained them at Sidon in Syria. The coins were a gold stater of Philip of Macedon, and two of Alexander the Great; one of the latter has the inscription in a curving line, and is said to be very rare. They formed part of the large collection of eight thousand found at Sidon in 1854, and supposed to have been the treasure of one of Alexander's officers. The curiosities were a cup of Phœnician glass of early date and very rude work, and a three-sided seal from Babylon; two sides were engraved, one with a head, the other with a representation of the bird-god. These articles were examined with much attention and interest. The Society adjourned at about 5 P. M.

W. S. APPLETON, *Secretary*.

RHODE ISLAND NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION.

Regular Meeting, May 18, 1868.—In the absence of the President and Vice-President, Mr. Gorton was chosen chairman for the evening.

The Committees on Purchase of a Cabinet, and Transfer of the Society's Collection, presented their reports, showing that a Cabinet for coins had been procured, and the numismatic property of the Association transferred to the same.

A letter was read from Mr. Edward Cogan, of New York.

A large number of Harrison medals were exhibited by Mr. Winsor. Among other pieces of interest, was the "Equestrian Harrison", of which but three specimens are known.*

On motion, the Association adjourned.

G. D. HERSEY, *Secretary*.

The annexed slip from the "Montreal Daily Witness" gives evidence that our sister organization there is in vigorous life:

"MONTREAL NUMISMATIC SOCIETY.—We understand that His Excellency, the Gov.-General, has kindly consented to become the patron of the Numismatic and Antiquarian Society, of Montreal. This Society, though perhaps less demonstrative than some others, is, we have reason to believe, by no means idle nor without results. There is now in press and to be brought out, under its auspices, on Dominion Day, a work on the coins and tokens of Canada; a small volume to be illustrated with some sixty fac-similes of our present and past coins and tokens."

The Circular which ornaments this number, gives fuller information in relation to this desirable book, of which numismatists in the United States will certainly require a few hundred copies.

THE "RICKETTS'S CIRCUS" TOKENS.

We are acquainted with four of these curious and interesting pieces. Mr. Bushnell, in whose immense collection are generally found duplicates, triplicates, and quadruplicates of anything that is choice and difficult to obtain, possesses but one, in copper; while Mr. Levick, our co-editor, has not only one in copper, purchased for \$6 at Mr. Mickley's sale, but also two in silver, one of which was bought for \$7.50 on the same occasion. These prices are in accordance with the excessive rarity of this Token. It is of size 18, presenting on the one side the legend RICKETTS'S CIRCUS, between a festoon of leaves above and two branches of oak below; and on the other a coat of arms which may be roughly described as two swords on a chevron between three roses in an ermine field, with an arm as crest, grasping in the hand a scimitar, the whole between a palm branch and one of olive. The arms of Sir Cornwallis Ricketts, of The Elms, Gloucester, as given in Burke's "Dictionary of the Peerage and Baronetage", 1865, are similar, with additions.

The following extracts from the "Philadelphia Mail, or Claypoole's Daily Advertiser", for 1793,

* In relation to this piece we append the following valuable extract from a private letter of our esteemed correspondent, Mr. Hersey:

"At the sale of Mr. Henry A. Smith (of Cleveland, Ohio), in New York, some years ago, the Equestrian Harrison was for the first time offered for sale. The piece was in nothing more than fair condition, and thought by the owner, and believed by collectors generally, to be unique. At that time, however, two Providence collectors, Messrs. Meader and Jenks, had each a *proof specimen*. Mr. J. in passing a jewelry store, a few months previous, saw them in the window, and purchased them for *six cents each*; at the same time buying a number of other Harrison medals for a like exorbitant price. The proprietor said that the lot had been in an old box ever since the Harrison campaign. Mr. Jenks gave one of the two 'Equestrians' to Mr. Meader, from whom it was lately obtained by Mr. Winsor; and sold the other to Mr. Woodward, who sold it, in his October sale of that year (1863), to Mr. John F. McCoy, for \$15. At that gentleman's sale, the same piece brought \$17.50. It was bought, I think, by Mr. Robert Hewitt, Jr. The Smith specimen is said to be in Mr. Appleton's cabinet."

will exhibit the nature of the interest which attaches to these curiosities. The first is an advertisement which we print at full length, from the paper of April 22 :

CIRCUS. Mr. RICKETTS respectfully informs the Ladies and Gentlemen of Philadelphia, that at Five o'clock, THIS AFTERNOON, his *Equestrian Exercises* will commence as usual. The PRESIDENT of the United States and Family will honor the Circus with their company. For the future Mr. RICKETTS will not particularize the Exercises which he means to perform, being resolved always to exert his best abilities in rendering satisfaction to the generous and enlightened citizens of Philadelphia, whose liberal encouragement he takes this public mode of acknowledging with gratitude—and the continuance of whose patronage he will constantly endeavor to deserve. Mr. RICKETTS attends at the CIRCUS every morning from six to eight, for the purpose of instructing Gentlemen, and from eight to eleven he will attend such Ladies as mean to perfect themselves in the polite and elegant accomplishment of Riding and managing their horses. Ladies' Horses broke at short notice.

From the paper of May 15, we learn that the Circus was in Market Street, at the corner of Twelfth, and that the cost of Tickets was "Box one dollar, Pit half a dollar". Mr. Ricketts seems to have deviated, as men will do, from the system announced at the beginning, for we have his Exercises particularized from time to time in subsequent advertisements, as for instance in the programme for May 22: "Besides a number of new Feats, Mr. RICKETTS will ride a single horse, standing erect with Two Eggs fastened to the bottom of his feet". But Science now disputed the field with Art. In the issue of May 23, we read that on the 30th, at Ricketts's Circus, the "first Experiment of Natural Philosophy with the Parachute or Falling Screen, that ever was made on the continent of America, will be made by Mr. Blanchard". On the 28th, Blanchard himself signs a communication to the Editor, ending: "Citizen Genet, minister of the Republic of France, has assured me of his intention of being a witness to this experiment".

After several postponements, the exhibition finally took place, as we read in the paper of June 7, and with complete success, on Wednesday, June 5, 1793. A dog, a cat, and a squirrel, were deposited in a basket affixed to the parachute, and a match was so placed as to burn, at a certain moment, the connection between the parachute and the balloon. When the latter was about a mile high, the cord separated, and the animals were "brought back alive, with great triumph, to the Circus, surrounded by vast crowds of admiring spectators".

DIES CUT BY J. A. BOLEN, OF SPRINGFIELD, MASS.

A SUPPLEMENT.

In our JOURNAL for August, 1866, appeared a descriptive list of Mr. Bolen's productions, which has been continued in "Mason's Coin and Stamp Collectors' Magazine" for April, 1868. As we have, however, through the kindness of Major C. P. Nichols, of Springfield, and that of Mr. Bolen himself, been recently placed in possession of information on the subject, not contained in either of those articles, we believe that our readers will be obliged to us for supplementing them both with the additional facts which we have thus acquired. And first, to our former catalogue of 23 pieces (JOURNAL, Vol. I., p. 31) we are enabled to annex, on Mr. Bolen's own authority, the following details :

- No. 1. 75 struck in copper, 125 in white metal ; Dies sold to Mr. Vinton.
- No. 2. 30 struck in copper ; Dies sold to Mr. Woodward, who struck 12 in silver, and destroyed the Dies.
- No. 3. 5 struck in copper ;
- No. 4. 75 " " and 75 in brass ; } Dies sold to Mr. Mason, of Brooklyn.
- No. 5. 75 " " " " ; }
- No. 6. 60 " " and 5 in silver ; Dies destroyed.
- No. 7. 30 " " ; } Dies sold to Dr. Edwards, after they had been defaced, or battered so as not to be fit to use.
- No. 8. 30 " " ; }
- No. 9. 2 " lead ; Dies destroyed.
- No. 10. 25 " copper ; Reverse Die sold to Dr. Edwards.
- No. 11. 20 " " ; Dies sold to Dr. Edwards.
- No. 12. Dies sold to Dr. Edwards ; Mr. Cogan has them at present ; number struck unknown.
- No. 13. 25 struck in copper ; Dies destroyed.
- No. 14. 5 " " ; " sold to Mr. McCoy.
- No. 15. None struck by Bolen ; Dies sold to Mr. McCoy.
- No. 16. 2 struck in copper ; Reverse Die destroyed.*
- No. 17. 6 " lead ; used as a Tag by the U. S. Government, which has the Die.*
- No. 18. A few struck in copper and tin ; Dies sold to Mr. McCoy.
- No. 19. 10 " " and 6 in tin ; Dies destroyed.
- No. 20. 2 struck in tin ; Dies destroyed.
- No. 21. 50 " copper, and 50 in tin ; Obverse Die destroyed.
- No. 22. 10 " " 40 " and one in brass ; }
- No. 23. 5 " " 400 " " " ; } Dies in Mr. Bolen's possession.

*This piece, which, through the politeness of Maj. Nichols, we have at this moment before our eyes, made as it is of a copper bolt from the wreck of the *Frigate Congress*, is a most interesting example of the "Historic Material" treated of in our April number.

We next give Mr. Bolen's more recent works, Op. 24 to Op. 32, as they would be called in musical phraseology, taken from "Mason's Magazine", but with additions similar to the foregoing.

- No. 24. Historical Token. Ob. Eagle on Shield, "Massachusetts 1866." Rev. "Lexington, April 19, 1775. Baltimore, April 19, 1861." Size 18. Silver, 2; copper, 14; tin, 1; brass, 1: Dies in Mr. Bolen's possession.
- No. 25. Springfield Token. Ob. same as No. 24. Rev. "Springfield Antiquarians. Jas. Parker, Wm. H. Bowdoin, C. B. Newell, J. A. Bolen, J. Whitcomb, D. K. Lee, Wm. Clogston." Size 18. Silver, 3; copper, 14; tin, 1; brass, 1: Dies in Mr. Bolen's possession.
- No. 26. Business Card. Ob. Head to Left, "J. A. Bolen, 1867." Rev. same as No. 21. Size 16. Copper, 26; tin, 26; brass, 1: Dies in Mr. Bolen's possession.
- No. 27. Washington Medal. Ob. Head to right, "Washington." Rev. "Geo. Washington. 1st President. U. S. The Union is the Main Prop of our Liberty." Size 16. Silver, 2; copper, 16; tin, 3; brass, 1: Dies in Mr. Bolen's possession.
- No. 28. Jefferson Medal. Ob. Head to right, "Jefferson." Rev. "Thomas Jefferson. 3d President. U. S. Equal and Exact Justice to All Men." Size 16. Silver, 3; copper, 16; tin, 3; brass, 1: Dies in Mr. Bolen's possession.
- No. 29. Jackson Medal. Ob. Head to right, "Jackson." Rev. "Andrew Jackson. 7th President. U. S. The Stern Old Soldier. A Foe to Traitors." Size 16. Silver, 3; copper, 16; tin, 3; brass, 1: Dies in Mr. Bolen's possession.
- No. 30. Lincoln Medal. Ob. Head to right, "Lincoln." Rev. "Abraham Lincoln. 16th President. U. S. Emancipation, the Great Event of the 19th Century." Size 16. Silver, 3; copper, 16; tin, 3; brass, 1: Dies in Mr. Bolen's possession.
- No. 31. Webster Medal. Ob. Head to right, "Webster." Rev. "Daniel Webster. The Able Defender of the Constitution." Size 16. Silver, 3; copper, 16; tin, 3; brass, 1: Dies in Mr. Bolen's possession.
- No. 32. Libertas Americana Medal. Ob. Head to left with flowing hair, liberty-cap over right shoulder, "Libertas Americana. 4 Jul. 1776." Rev. same as ob. of No. 26. Size 16. Silver, 3; copper, 16; tin, 3; brass, 1: Dies in Mr. Bolen's possession.
- Mr. Bolen has also made, to special order, certain *Mules*, viz: Washington, Rev. Libertas Americana, 6, in silver. Jefferson, Rev. Libertas Americana, 1, in silver. Lincoln, Rev. Libertas Americana, 1, in silver.

Mr. Bolen can furnish Medalets 27-32 for \$3 the set, in copper, or \$1.50 in tin. He does not keep them, but will strike them if ordered. So too with regard to Nos. 22, 24, 25, which may be had for 50 cents each in copper, or half-price in tin; and Nos. 23 and 26, for 25 cents in copper. Nos. 7, 8, and 11, may also be had at \$2 each, in copper; and No. 18 at 25 cents, in tin.

QUERY AND REPLY.

We lately received, through Mr. Desmond Fitzgerald, formerly Vice-President of the Rhode Island Numismatic Association, but now Civil Engineer at Spencer, Ind., a Query from a Lady, *innominata*, in relation to the meaning of the crossed Ls on the Louisiana coppers of 1721 and 1722. We are sorry to say that we have lost the original communication, undoubtedly from excessive carefulness in laying it aside, for we really attached great importance to this, our first, contribution from a correspondent of the gentler sex. We also devoted some thought to the subject of the Ls, though aware that the Association are engaged in investigating it, and expecting therefore some solid result from their researches. We tried to make out a connection between L for Louis, and L for Law, that is John Law, of the celebrated Mississippi Scheme, which flourished about this time; but such a combination of the name of a king with that of a commoner would have been contrary to all monarchic etiquette, and is unsupported by evidence. Next we sought an interpretation in the meaning of L, as a Roman numeral, but this would not do either, for Louis Quinze was not the *fiftieth* King of France, though nearly so, and the coins of Louis Quatorze, his predecessor, also have this duplicated L. Dr. Dickeson's surmise, that the letters denote, respectively, Louis and Louisiana, is plausible. We wonder, however, that his imagination, so powerful in regard to the R F, did not inspire him to explain these characters as "Loathsome Louis"; but he probably remembered that such an appellation, appropriate enough in after years, would not have been applicable to the promising boy of eleven, in 1721. On the whole, we are disposed to regard this device as a mere Monogram. Two Ls, placed back to back, and surmounted by a crown, appear on a small silver coin in our possession, of the year 1720, intended for circulation in France; and, on a Crown of 1725, of which we have a representation before us, eight Ls thus *addorsed* in pairs, are so arranged as to form a cross. It is likely that they have no more significance than the interlinked Cs, on the Crowns of Charles, II., of England. As these may imply "Charles, son and successor of Charles", "Carolus a Carolo", so the other letters may perhaps mean "Louis, great-grandson and successor of Louis".



COINS,

TOKENS, &c.,

OF THE

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OF MONTREAL;

— BY —

JOSHUA L. BRONSDON, F.N.S., PRESIDENT, N. & A. S.,

— AND —

ALFRED SANDHAM, CURATOR, N. & A. S., and Corresponding Member
Amer. Num. & Arch. Soc'y of New York.

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